

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-04

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 ISO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 /026 R

DRAFTED BY PA/PG:DFBARRETT:DS

APPROVED BY PA/PG-DBROWN

S/S-O:R ELTZ

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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UNCLAS STATE 048216

TODEP 237

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US, PINT, XX

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS SUMMARY

POLAD FOR DEPSEC

1. HIGHLIGHTS. MONDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGE MRS. MEIR PREMIER AGAIN AFTER WINNING VOTE 62-46, MEIR SAYS NO RETURN TO '67 LINES, TO GIVE IDEAS ON PULLBACK WITHIN 2 WEEKS; ARABS POSTPONE EMBARGO TALKS; NYTIMES HAS U.S. INCREASING AID TO INDOCHINA, INFLATION AND CONTINUED FIGHTING ARE CITED BY ADMINISTRATION, PROPOSING TO GIVE SOUTH VIETNAM ABOUT 2.4 BILLIONS IN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR; WASHPOST HAS SOLZHENITSYN NOT AN ISSUE SAYS BREZHNEV.

1A. NYTIMES INSIDE HAS HUSSEIN LEAVES TODAY FOR US FOR TALKS ON MIDDLE EAST WITH NIXON; NIXON NAMES SECRETARY OF NAVY JOHN WARNER TO HEAD NEW AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION; REPRESENTATIVES MCCLORY AND KASTENMEIER OF HOUSE JUDICIARY PANEL CRITICIZE NIXON FOR NOT DISCLOSING TAPES.

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1B. WASHPOST INSIDE HAS IRS IS SAID TO PROBE '69 NIXON

TAX RETURN; HARRIS SURVEY SAYS MOST(BY 54 TO 32 PER CENT)

FEEL PRESIDENT SHOULD GIVE UP DATA, MAJORITY POLLED (64 TO 17 PER CENT) DO NOT EXPECT NIXON TO TURN OVER ALL EVIDENCE TO HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE; RUSSIA'S TRADE MINISTER SAYS RESTRICTIVE U.S. TRADE POLICIES TOWARD SOVIET UNION COULD JEOPARDIZE PENDING MULTIBILLION-DOLLAR DEAL TO BRING NATURAL GAS FROM SOVIET UNION TO US.

2. MIDDLE EAST. NYTIMES, CAIRO, DE ONIS REPORTS MEETING OF ARAB OIL MINISTERS CALLED BY EGYPT TO CONSIDER LIFTING OIL EMBARGO AGAINST US FLOUNDERED YESTERDAY AND WAS POSTPONED UNTIL WEDNESDAY IN TRIPOLI. REPRESENTATIVES OF ONLY SIX OF THE NINE ARAB COUNTRIES THAT ORIGINALLY IMPOSED EMBARGO SHOWED UP IN CAIRO, AND THEY DECIDED NOTHING COULD BE DONE WITHOUT ALGERIA, LIBYA AND SYRIA. DE ONIS SAYS US HAS BEEN EXERTING DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE SINCE DECEMBER FOR END TO EMBARGO, WHICH KISSINGER HAS SAID IS "INAPPROPRIATE" IN VIEW OF US EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT THROUGH GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, WITH MILITARY DISENGAGEMENT AS FIRST STEP.

2A. WASHPOST, CAIRO, HOAGLAND REPORTS FORMAL MEETING APPARENTLY BLOCKED BY CONTINUING DIVISIONS AMONG ARAB LEADERS, LEAVING FATE OF EMBARGO UNCERTAIN. EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT HAD FIRMLY PLEDGED TO KISSINGER THAT EMBARGO WOULD BE LIFTED AT MEETING IN CAIRO AS RESULT OF PROGRESS KISSINGER HAS ALREADY ACHIEVED, RESPONSIBLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID LAST NIGHT.

3. SOVIET UNION/CSCE. NYTIMES, MOSCOW, WREN REPORTS BREZHNEV YESTERDAY ACCUSED WEST OF HINDERING PROGRESS AT CSCE BY INTRODUCING UNIMPORTANT ISSUES AND PERSONALLY APPEALED TO OTHER LEADERS TO JOIN HIM IN WINDING UP TALKS AT "HIGHEST RESPONSIBLE LEVEL." AT SAME TIME BREZHNEV DISMISSED SOLZHENITSYN AFFAIR AS "NOT A PROBLEM" FOR SOVIET UNION, ADDING NO SINGLE WRITER LIKE SOLZHENITSYN COULD SLOW UP ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. BREZHNEV ALSO ASSERTED THAT SOVIET UNION HAD NO INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING WITH US A WORLD DOMINANCE OF SUPERPOWERS, AS UNCLASSIFIED

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CHINA, FRANCE AND OTHER NATIONS HAVE CHARGED. WREN SAYS BREZHNEV WAS MAKING THESE COMMENTS AT HOUR-LONG INTERVIEW WITH GROUP OF FRENCH CORRESPONDENT. REITERATING MOSCOW'S INSISTENCE THAT GENEVA PHASE OF EUROPEAN SECURITY TALKS BE CONCLUDED SWIFTLY, BREZHNEV CONTENDED "THERE HAS APPEARED MUCH AT GENEVA CONFERENCE THAT IS OFTEN IN-
ESSENTIAL, THAT HINDERS THE SOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL QUES-

TIONS OF THE CONFERENCE." SOVIET PRESS HAS COMPLAINED, SAYS WREN, THAT CONFERENCE IS BEING PROLONGED UNNECESSARILY, PARTICULARLY ON ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH SOVIET UNION GENERALLY VIEWS AS ISSUE THAT INTERFERES IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. BREZHNEV ALSO TOLD NEWSMEN THAT SOVIET UNION "MORE THAN ONCE" HAD TRIED TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH CHINA, ADDING "IT IS UP TO CHINA TO MAKE NEXT MOVE." BREZHNEV INDICATED THAT NATIONS OF WESTERN EUROPE COULD MAKE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, BUT HE LEFT UNCLEAR WHETHER HE WAS ASKING THEM TO TAKE ACTIVE ROLE AT ARAB-ISRAELI TALKS IN GENEVA. SOVIET LEADER SAID MOSCOW REMAINED FIRMLY OPPOSED TO ANY ECONOMIC MOVES BY NINE COMMON MARKET NATIONS THAT WOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST NONMEMBER NATIONS.

3A. WASHPOST, MOSCOW KAISER REPORTS BREZHNEV AT NEWS CONFERENCE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS SAYING "IT IS OBLIGATORY THAT NO SOLZHENITSYN HINDER FRANCO-SOVIET COOPERATION. HE IS NOT THE QUESTION." PRESUMABLY, SAYS KAISER, BREZHNEV WOULD APPLY THE SAME NOTION TO ALL EAST-WEST RELATIONS, KAISER ADDING REMARKS SUGGESTS DEEP SENSITIVITY ON SOVIET LEADER'S PART OVER WESTERN REACTION TO SOLZHENITSYN EXPULSION. IT IS SORT OF COMMENT SOVIET LEADERS VIRTUALLY NEVER MAKE IN PUBLIC BECAUSE IT AMOUNTS TO AN ADMISSION THAT SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS HAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. EARLIER IN PRESS CONFERENCE, BREZHNEV SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE SOLZHENITSYN CAN IN SOME WAY REPRESENT THE POLITICS OF AN ENTIRE STATE. ONE NEWSMAN ASKED BREZHNEV IF SOVIET UNION WAS BEING CUT OUT OF DIPLOMACY AIMED AT MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, IN LIGHT OF KISSINGER'S ONE MAN EFFORTS IN THIS AREA. IN ANSWER THAT HINTED AT SOVIET UNEASINESS ON THIS POINT, BREZHNEV SAID IDEA THAT HIS

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COUNTRY HAD IN ANY WAY DIMINISHED ITS INTEREST IN MIDDLE EAST WAS "JUST AN IMPRESSION", IMPLYING THAT IT WAS INCORRECT, AND ADDING "WE HAVE NEVER ABANDONED THE DEFENSE OF TH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CRIMES, PETROLEUM, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, EMBARGOES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE048216
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DFBARRETT:DS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740353/aaaabxet.tel
Line Count: 153
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN PRESS SUMMARY POLAD FOR DEPSEC
TAGS: PINT, PARM, ENRG, US, XX, UR, XF, XG, (NIXON, RICHARD M), (BREZHNEV, LEONID I), (SOLZHENITSYN, ALEKSANDR I)
To: CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005